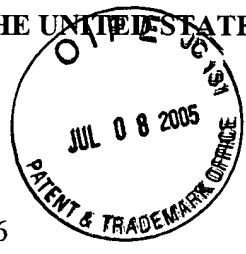


AFZM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:  
Berry, et al.

Serial No.: 10/691,256

Filed: October 22, 2003

For: Vertebral Body Replacement Implant

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Group Art Unit: 3738

Confirmation No.: 5450

Examiner: Stewart, Alvin J.

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION  
MAILED MAY 5, 2005**

Sir:

**I. Introductory Comments**

The present paper is being submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 5, 2005.

**Listing of the Pending Claims**, for the Examiner's convenience, begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.